



Sustainable Forestry Internal Commitment Memo South Carolina Forestry Commission

To: State Forest and Forest Management Section Employees and Managers

From: Scott L. Phillips, State Forester

Date: June 15, 2022

Subject: Statement of Commitment to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) and American Forest Foundation Standards

The intent of this memo is to communicate the South Carolina Forestry Commission's commitment to implement and achieve independent certification to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) and the American Forest Foundation (AFF) Standards for its State Forests.

Attached is the Commission's Sustainable Forestry statement committing the organization to compliance with the applicable requirements of the Standards and relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

The Commission is communicating this commitment to each of our managers, foresters, technicians, and others with responsibility for implementing the Standards. All managers and those that work on the Commission's behalf need to understand the commitment and the Standards and are encouraged to help the agency implement and achieve them.

An important element of implementing the SFI Standard is an annual monitoring and management review process to foster continual improvement. Therefore, all employees who have responsibilities for implementing the standards are encouraged to provide their input into ways that the Commission can effectively implement the Standards and make continual compliance improvement. Employee input into progress reviews will help ensure conformance with the Standards and broaden the practice of Sustainable Forestry.

If you have any questions regarding the Commission's Sustainable Forestry commitment or suggestions on how to improve our overall Sustainable Forestry Program, please contact James Douglas, our State Lands Coordinator, Russell Hubright, our Forest Management Chief, Tom Patton, our Deputy State Forester, or me.



Sustainable Forestry Commitment

South Carolina Forestry Commission

June 15, 2022

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is committed to continually achieving independent certification to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Requirements for the (2022) Program and the American Forest Foundation (AFF) (2021) Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification.

The Forestry Commission is committed to promoting and achieving the Principles of Sustainable Forest Management including: practicing sustainable forestry, employing responsible practices, regenerating the forest and maintaining productive capacity, protecting and maintaining long-term forest and soil productivity, evaluating climate smart and fire resilience awareness, protecting water resources, protecting special sites and biological diversity, complying with legal requirements, and continually improving forest practices.

The Forestry Commission is committed to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including social laws. The Commission strives to involve interested and affected parties in its sustainable forest management programs and to consider their comments and inputs in making management decisions.

To help implement and achieve the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and American Forest Foundation Standards, the Forestry Commission has developed and adopted appropriate programs, plans and procedures to guide its land management activities. These programs and plans are contained in the certification manual, the SFI Program and other written documents.

The Forestry Commission is committed to comply with applicable laws and regulations and takes appropriate steps to comply. The Commission is also committed to annually review the effectiveness of its management programs to continually improve the practice of sustainable forestry.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott L. Phillips".

Scott L. Phillips
State Forester
South Carolina Forestry Commission

